

GEOLOGY

OF THE

LAKE SUPERIOR LAND DISTRICT.

PART II.

CHAPTER I.

CLASSIFICATION AND NOMENCLATURE OF THE ROCKS.

Tabular Arrangement of the different Formations.— Terms defined.— Relations of the Igneous and Aqueous Formations.— The Azoic System.— The Silurian System.— Confusion in Nomenclature.— Synonymy of the Groups in different Regions.— Explanation of the General Map and Section.

In Part I. of this Report, communicated to the Commissioner of the General Land Office in 1850, and published in 1851, we have given a historical sketch of the exploration of the country bordering on Lake Superior, a description of its physical geography and climate, and so much of its geology as was necessary to the full elucidation of the copper-bearing rocks and their relation to the sedimentary formations; this being the subject to which that part of the report was principally devoted. The two concluding chapters contained an account of the drift phenomena so conspicuously displayed in the region of the great lakes.

In Part II. of this Report, we shall proceed to the detailed and systematic description, so far as our materials will enable us, of the geology of the whole of the Lake Superior Land District, commencing with those formations which are the lowest in the scale of geological succession, or those which were the first formed, and ascending to those which are now in the progress of accumulation. We shall only allude to the results of the former part of the report, so far as it may be necessary to enable the reader to form a connected idea of the geology of the whole region.